



PATENT
P56949

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Warner HONEGGER

Serial No.: 10/660,783

Examiner: To be assigned

Filed: 12 September 2003

Art Unit: 3653

For: A METHOD AND A DEVICE FOR PROCESSING AND SEPARATING AN IMBRICATE FORMATION OF FLEXIBLE, FLAT OBJECTS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop : ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, applicant cites, lists and discusses and provides copies of the following art references cited in a Search Report issued by the European Patent Office, in Applicant's corresponding co-pending European patent Application No.03 020 318.

U.S. Patent Reference:

1. U.S. Patent No. 4,201,286 to Meier, entitled *APPARATUS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL CONVEYING OF PRINTED PRODUCTS ARRIVING IN AN IMBRICATED PRODUCT STREAM*, issued on 6 May 1980.

Foreign Patent Reference:

1. Great Britain Patent Specification Publication No.1 578 250 to Hageman et al., entitled *APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DELIVERING SIGNATURES TO A FEED MECHANISM*, published on 5 November 1980.

OTHER DOCUMENT:

European *Office Action* of the European Patent Application No. 03 02 0318 (dated on 17 December 2003).

Discussion

Meier'286, which is cited in the European Search Report as being of particular interest, if taken alone, discusses a gripper drive that is provided with at least one continuously driven sluice for the cycled recall of restrained or stopped grippers. The gripper drive is operatively associated with the sluice in an endless revolving conveyor element that is equipped at a substantially uniform spacing from one another, with entrainment members engaging with the trailing edges of the printed products. The conveyor element is driven with the entrainment members in cycle with the sluice and in opposite sense in relation to the sense of revolving motion of the grippers. An infeed device having a drive is coupled by a synchronous control with the drive of the sluice.

Hageman, et al. GB'250 was cited in the European Search Report as being of particular relevance if taken alone. Hageman GB'250 contemplates an Apparatus that deliver signatures to a feed mechanism, with a discharge area for signatures from which the signatures are fed by the feed mechanism, means for receiving the signatures and means for conveying the signatures in a generally, vertically stacked on-edge array to a discharge area, with guide means extending in the

direction of movement of the conveyer, defining a storage area for signatures upstream from the discharge area, arranged to bow each signature in the storage area in the direction of movement of the conveyer. Hold-release means disposed to adjacent to the end of the storage area, engages respective opposite side edges of the furthers down stream signature in the storage area to sequentially hold that signature in a bowed condition and to release that signature to the discharge area at a predetermined hold-release frequency.

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the statement.

This citation of foregoing references is not intended to constitute an assertion that Application has undertaken the search of the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to take a wide-ranging and through search of the relevant art.

No fee is incurred by filing this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,



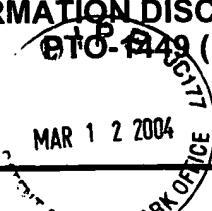
Robert E. Bushnell
Reg. No.: 27,774

1522 "K" Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
Area Code: 202-408-9040

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
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APPLICANT Warner-Honegger

FILING DATE 12 September 2003

GROUP 3653

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	4,201,286	5/80	Meier Jacques			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

TRANSLATION

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	YES	NO
	GB1 578 250	11/80	Great Britain				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

European Office Action of the European Patent Application No. 03 02 0318 (dated on 17 December 2003)

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.